

apply to her program and a \$15,000 personal award.

Ms. Flynn was chosen from nearly 700 people nominated this year. Since 1992, the program has given 133 awards in 45 states, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. Award winners are nominated by civic leaders, health professionals, government representatives and others inspired by their efforts to provide essential health services to their communities.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Flynn is motivated by the disparity and inconsistencies that she observes in her community. She believes that a commitment to help those who are regarded as less fortunate is a small price to pay. Her commitment in turn inspires others to continue to strive for a better future. Ms. Flynn is more than worthy of our recognition today.

#### THE CARIBBEAN MULTI-NATIONAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments and success of the Caribbean Multi-National Business Conference, organized by the New York Carib News, which will celebrate its tenth anniversary this year in the U.S. Virgin Islands between November 10 and 13. Thanks to the hard work and dedicated effort of the organizers of this event, a real dialogue between U.S. and Caribbean businesses has emerged that promises to generate plenty of economic benefit for both the U.S. and the island nations of the Caribbean.

Karl and Faye Rodney, the publishers of the New York Carib News have brought together hundreds of elected officials, civic leaders, entrepreneurs, and business executives from the U.S. and the Caribbean to explore the possibilities and opportunities for economic growth and expansion in the Caribbean. This year's conference will be held in St. Thomas and promises to be an extraordinary success.

Personally, I have found the conference extremely influential in building and supporting political and economic relationships between this country and the nations of the Caribbean. I have also had the honor of participating in these successful conferences and know that they are extremely enlightening and educational endeavors that nurture a growing and important global sector in the world.

This conference has repeatedly addressed important issues of concern to our mutual economic interests. It has concentrated on the challenges and problems of foreign investment, market access, and private sector support. The attendees at the conference come with bright ideas and innovative solutions to these problems and to addressing our common concerns.

I encourage my colleagues and businesses throughout the country to consider attending this year's conference. I submit for the RECORD a Carib News article providing an assessment of this year's planning and the opportunities available for corporations, government leader, and citizens, written by Tony Best, who always participates and provides wise guidance and counsel.

SET FOR ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

A decade after it was launched to build bridges between Caribbean and the U.S.

businesses the Caribbean Multi-National Business Conference is moving towards an important milestone in its evolution.

It is the 10th anniversary of an innovation in economic and social development partnerships, spurred by links between the large, medium-sized and small businesses in an area that stretches from New York, Washington DC, Miami, Colorado, Chicago, Ohio, Texas, New Jersey, and other parts of the U.S. to such nations and territories as Jamaica, Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Grenada, St. Marteen, the Bahamas, and St. Kitts-Nevis.

The annual Caribbean Multi-National conference which brought together about 4,000 Caribbean and U.S. business and Government leaders since 1995 to discuss everything from investment, Hemispheric trade and bilateral economic and social partnerships to U.S.-Caribbean relations and health and education challenges is scheduled to be held at Caribbean regional integration, in the U.S. and the Caribbean, especially the members of CARICOM is being held this year in St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands between November 10-13.

The conference has become a highly successful annual event for those interested in creating profitable business partnerships in the Caribbean and for government representatives whose goal is to improve the quality of people's lives, said Pamela Richards, U.S. Virgin Island's Commissioner of Tourism, who is also Chairman of the Board of the Caribbean Tourism Organization.

We have seen the positive results of these meetings, ever since the 1998 meeting in St. Croix. We are delighted that we are being given another opportunity to serve as hosts.

With issues that range from foreign investment, access to markets, the essential role of the private sector in economic expansion and job creation to the march forward in information communications technology on the table for consideration, this year's meeting in St. Thomas, Dr. Karl Rodney, Publisher of the New York Carib News and the driving force behind the conference's 10-year record of success, said that they expect the sessions in St. Thomas to attract the largest gatherings of participants.

We have already seen an exceptionally high level of interest, he explained. One reason is the appeal of St. Thomas. Another is the track record of providing participants with a unique chance to explore commercial deals and to share ideas about new business ventures in several fields, be it retailing, manufacturing, tourism, and other services and import-export.

The presence of many members of the U.S. Congress, senior Caribbean government ministers and their advisers would once again allow them to have a meaningful exchange of ideas about moving U.S. Caribbean relations forward. U.S. Congressional delegate from the U.S. Virgin Islands, Representative Dr. Donna Christian Christensen, agreed. We in Congress and outside of it, know the value of the conference both in terms of the business ventures that evolve out of the private meetings and the public sessions and the discussions which take place during the Dialogue between elected representatives and other Government officials from the U.S. and the Caribbean, said Congresswoman who has attended almost all the conference. That's why we in the U.S. Virgin Islands consider it an honor to welcome the participants from across the U.S. and the Caribbean.

HONORING PAUL J. WILMES

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Paul J. Wilmes of Nodaway County, Missouri. Paul will soon retire from a 28 year career of distinguished service to the rural residents and communities of 22 counties in northwest Missouri. Although we wish that Paul could stay on at USDA, he has certainly given back to his community, his state, and his Nation, and well deserved retirement awaits him, though given Paul's reputation for being an active citizen in his community, I doubt this is the last we will hear from Paul Wilmes.

Paul was born on April 22nd, 1953 to Francis and Clara Wilmes of Nodaway County; a county I have been fortunate enough to represent since 1992 at the state and now federal level. Paul grew up in a devout Catholic farm home, and attended St. Gregory's Catholic elementary school, followed by Maryville High School where he was active with football and wrestling. Upon his graduation from Maryville High School, Paul enrolled in Northwest Missouri State University, where he was a member of the Phi Sigma Epsilon Fraternity. He graduated from Northwest with a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science.

On July 10, 1976 he married Robin Lamb. Today, Paul and Robin have two children, Meredith and Kyle, and they remain active in their local community in Nodaway County. Paul has served as a Trustee for the endowment for St. Gregory's School, Advisor to the Area Vocation Technical School, Committee Advisor for the Parents as Teacher Program, a Bantam League football coach, as well as many other church committees and the Finance Board at St. Gregory Barbarigo.

Paul began his career with USDA on April 18, 1977 working for the Farmers Home Administration. He was promoted to the position of County Supervisor in Nodaway County, and later advanced to the position of District Farm Loan Specialist within the Farmers Home Administration. Paul was selected as the District Director of that agency, and on April 30, 1995, Paul began his tenure supervising 22 rural counties in Northwest Missouri. Over the years, the agency has changed its name and refocused its mission, but Paul has remained constant as the leader and director of what is now known as Area 1 of USDA Rural Development.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Paul J. Wilmes, a remarkable citizen who exemplifies the qualities of dedication and service. While rural Missouri will miss his leadership, experience, and knowledge, I will still have the great honor of representing Paul in the United States Congress.

A TRIBUTE TO JOANN LUM

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor JoAnn Lum. Ms. Lum, the daughter of Chinese immigrants, recently won the Nation's

highest community health leadership honor for mobilizing sweatshop workers and Lower Manhattan victims of 9/11 to seek improved access to benefits and quality health services as part of a larger effort to gain control of their lives.

Ms. Lum is one of 10 outstanding individuals from across the country chosen to receive this year's Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program award.

While growing up in California, Lum observed the hardships suffered by her father and other relatives as they put in long hours as 'houseboys,' busboys and garment workers. During a stint in the Manhattan Borough President's office in the early 1990s, she volunteered as an English teacher for Chinese immigrants and was inspired by the impact of workers organizing to improve conditions.

Ms. Lum founded the National Mobilization Against SweatShops (NMASS) to harness the power of worker campaigns to create healthier workplaces and communities. She works primarily with Latina, Afro-Caribbean, Polish and African American women and men. In one project, she is targeting injured workers' access to benefits and medical treatment, campaigning to overhaul the Workers' Compensation system. In addition, she is calling for an end to 'forced overtime' and other unfair practices, to prevent injuries among more workers.

A testament to Ms. Lum's work is a statement from a Polish immigrant who suffered chemical injuries as an asbestos worker and received assistance from Ms. Lum's organization: "I joined NMASS after being denied my Workers' Compensation benefits numerous times. I was alone and felt powerless, with no money or health care. JoAnn not only assisted me to get needed medical treatment, but has opened my eyes to how disabled workers like myself can join together to advocate for fair health benefits."

Another NMASS initiative launched by Lum, called "Beyond Ground Zero," is a coalition of public health advocates, doctors, clergy and community groups that came together in response to the health crisis among Lower Manhattan's poor population following 9/11.

The coalition compelled private entities to create disaster health insurance for individuals working in Lower Manhattan whose health and income were damaged by 9/11. And in Partnership with Bellevue Hospital, the coalition started a treatment and documentation program for respiratory problems and post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms experienced by victims who were largely ignored by other relief efforts.

More than 3,000 people attended two Lower Manhattan town hall meetings organized by Ms. Lum. Ultimately, her coalition assisted 10,000 poor families in accessing medical coverage and treatment or disaster relief. Ms. Lum's coalition continues to advocate for public and private support for programs that address the longterm health needs of the working poor in Lower Manhattan.

"JoAnn is gifted with the ability to create a movement where the people who must speak for themselves are the center of the work," said one of Lum's nominators.

The Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program distributes \$1.2 million each year to innovators who have creatively surmounted obstacles to meet the challenges of providing health care and social services to the underserved members of their

communities. Ms. Lum and this year's other winners will be honored at a June event in Washington, D.C. She will receive \$105,000 to apply to her program and a \$15,000 personal award.

Ms. Lum was chosen from nearly 700 people nominated this year. Since 1992, the program has given 133 awards in 45 states, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. Award winners are nominated by civic leaders, health professionals, government representatives and others inspired by their efforts to provide essential health services to their communities.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Lum is motivated by the disparity and inconsistencies that she observes in her community. She believes that a commitment to help those who are regarded as less fortunate is a small price to pay. Her commitment in turn inspires others to continue to strive for a better future. Ms. Lum is more than worthy of our recognition today.

#### HONORING THE 2005 GRADUATES FROM GLOUCESTER COUNTY COLLEGE AND GLOUCESTER COUNTY INSTITUTE OF TECH- NOLOGY GED PROGRAMS

#### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2005*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the recent graduates from the Gloucester County College and Gloucester County Institute of Technology GED programs. These students have now completed their high school education and earned their diplomas. I commend them for their dedication and hard work, and hope that their education will not end here. Education is a lifelong goal, one that serves to promote the betterment of the individual, and of society. I ask them to read the newspaper; read a novel; write poetry; study current events; talk to friends and family about the issues of the day. Their graduation today is a starting point from which they can grow and learn, and I wish these students all the best in their future endeavors.

The following are the 2005 graduates from the Gloucester County College and Gloucester County Institute of Technology GED Programs:

Anello, Sharon; Bacho, Maria; Booker, Tara Lynn; Boychuck, Laura; Byerly, Kimberly; Childers, Jayne; Conroy, Joseph; Conroy, Margaret; Cook, Christoffer; Cooper, Kimberly; Davis, Damien; D'Costa, Stuart; Devine, Debra; Dobleman, Erik; Doty, Jason; Dozier, Jarrid; Fink, Trisha; Flynn, Tenaya; Ganley, Heather; Goffney, Robert; Gonzalez, Kara and Hale, Michelle.

Hamill, Leah; Harper, Nicole; Harrison, Doreen; Herron, Kimesha; Hilliard, Shawahn; Houseberg, Joyce; James, Shadde; Johnson, Khanyeen; Justis, Helen E.; Karas, Anthony; Karnuk, Christopher J.; Kenyon, Ashley; Kevenaar, Krystle; Lane, Terri; Laramore, Anthony; Livingston, Jason; Long, Todd; Lowe, Bryan; Luongo, Christina; Luton, Karen; McCaughan, Michael; McCloskey, Jeannie and Merideth, Heather.

Moodhard, Shanna; Morrow, Heather; Nickel, James; Paris, David; Patel, Nick; Pettit, Christopher; Pogue, Jason; Quann, Tuana; Rivera, Marielisa; Roundtree, Ajirde; Scarpino, Rachel; Scott, Brittney; Scott, Dante; Seltzer, Christopher; Serock, Christie; Siewert, Jerry; Snyder, Eric; Stepp,

Ashley; Uebele, Evan; Velazquez, Flor; Verdinelli, Robert; Williams, Renee and Wilson, Meya.

#### RECOGNIZING JESSE WEST FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2005*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jesse West of Weston, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 249, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Jesse achieved the rank of Eagle Scout on August 4, 2004.

Jesse has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years that Jesse has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

For his Eagle Scout project, Jesse designed and landscaped a "Welcome to Weston" sign at the edge of the school property.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jesse West for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### HONORING MR. AND MRS. JESSE R. BAXTER, JR.

#### HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 15, 2005*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Mr. and Mrs. Jesse R. Baxter, Jr. J.R. Baxter, Jr., was born in Lebanon, Alabama on December 8, 1887. Clarice Howard was later born in Henagar, Alabama on October 1, 1897. The two married on June 23, 1918. They shared a commitment to faith and a love for music. Along with V.O. Stamps they founded Stamps-Baxter Music & Printing Company, in 1926. As devoted Christians, they committed their lives to furthering the gospel by setting it to music. Stamps-Baxter Music & Printing Company has played a crucial role in the promotion of gospel music worldwide. Mr. and Mrs. Baxter passed away in January 1959 and May 1972, respectively. However, their contributions to the composition, publishing, and distribution of gospel music are greatly appreciated and will benefit many generations to come. The Baxters were loved and respected by many and leave a legacy of service and humility. It is an honor to know that Mr. and Mrs. Baxter were both born and raised in DeKalb County, Alabama, which I have the privilege of representing as part of Alabama's Fourth Congressional District.